

Do you want the same things?

A Having things in common is one of the reasons that attracts us to our partners. As a relationship develops, each shared experience gives us the chance to check out if we're compatible. We want to know if we share the same taste in music, whether we laugh at the same jokes, and if we like the same people. If we seem to have plenty in common, we'll explore each other's aspirations to see if we have a future together.

C Sometimes dreams change. As we get older, we become wiser and more self-confident. Our tastes change and so do our priorities. It's this change that makes it possible to be happy with the same person for 70 years. And when both partners change and grow together, it can be a life-enriching experience. But change can be scary. We may fear that our partner is growing away from us. It may seem we have less in common, that we don't know them as well as we thought.

D The most important thing is to share the same personal values and priorities with your partner. If your partner wants to work while you want to have more time at home, underneath you may both believe that the children come first and want to do what you can to provide for them. If your goals in life seem to be worlds apart, don't give up. You may find that your goals are the same – it's just the paths that are different.

B When we talk about our dreams and ambitions, we're sharing the things that are closest to our hearts. We say something about our personal values and our priorities. For example, if you won a million euros, what would you do with it? The person who says "If I won a million, I'd buy us a new home" is saying something different from the person who says "I'd buy myself a sports car". The person who doesn't mention their partner had better be ready to defend themselves.

1 Read the text and choose the correct answers. (4 marks)

1 In a relationship, having things in common...

B is one reason why we are attracted to people.

C can mean that we are not compatible.

A can not be shared.

B are close to our hearts.

C are too personal.

A we change our priorities.

B we lose confidence.

C we lose our dreams.

It is important to...

A have the same values as your partner.

B work as much as possible.

C want your children to be successful.

Total

/10 marks

2 Match words 1–8 with words from the text. (4 marks)

1 discover (paragraph A) **check out**

2 should (paragraph B) **had better**

3 more experienced (paragraph C) **wiser**

4 stop trying (paragraph D) **give up**

3 Complete the sentences with the correct prepositions. (2 marks)

1 We have the same taste **in** music.

2 He likes talking **about** his ambitions.

3 People change **as** they get older.

4 I'd like to spend more time **at** home.

Biodiversity and extinction

A According to estimates by scientists, every day between 55 and 150 species of life become extinct. Most of them are insects or plants that haven't been discovered by humans. Does extinction matter? The answer is 'Yes'. All creatures are important, however insignificant they may seem. Many species help to keep us alive by purifying water, recycling waste and producing oxygen. All species, including human beings, form part of a web of life.

B Extinction has always formed a natural part of this web, with some species dying out. However, scientists are worried that in recent years, the natural rate of extinction has accelerated. The reason is the huge rise in human population – from 2.5 billion in 1953 to 6.6 billion now. As the number of people increases, other species' habitats and sources of food are destroyed.

C There may be 13 or 14 million species on earth but nobody knows. So far, only 1.75 million have been catalogued. Of the 40,000 species that scientists have studied in detail, 12,000 are at risk of extinction, including a quarter of all mammals, 13% of flowering plants and one bird out of every eight. The danger is that by making species extinct, we destroy the biodiversity that we rely on for our survival.

D Some argue that this type of unnatural extinction is like burning libraries and not passing on knowledge to future generations. Others complain that wildlife conservation concentrates too much on animals like pandas, and not enough on small species like tropical snails, which contain toxic substances that can be used to treat cancer. The problem with extinction is that once a species has been wiped out, you can't get it back – it's gone for good.

READING

1 Read the text quickly. Tick the four ideas mentioned in the text.

☒ A All species are important.

☐ B Many people don't have enough food.

☒ C The number of extinctions may be increasing.

☒ D Humans depend on biodiversity.

☐ E Scientists need to do more research.

☒ F Experts don't agree about extinction.

2 Read the text again and choose the correct answers.

1 Extinction affects

B many species we don't know exist.

C animals principally.

D many insignificant creatures.

2 All species are important because

A they purify water.

B they recycle waste.

C they produce oxygen.

D they are interconnected.

3 Extinction

A is a new phenomenon.

B has always taken place.

C is slowing down.

D The number of

A humans has more than doubled in the last 50 years.

B species on earth is definitely between 13 and 14 million.

C scientists who study extinction is 40,000.

D mammals in danger of extinction is 33%.

3 Match 1–8 with A–H.

1 35–150 **F**

2 6.6 billion **C**

3 13–14 million **A**

4 1.75 million **G**

5 40,000 **B**

6 12,000 **H**

7 13% **D**

8 1 in 8 **E**

4 Find words or expressions in the text which match the definitions.

1 approximate calculations (paragraph A) **estimates**

2 people (paragraph A) **humans**

3 becoming extinct (paragraph B) **disappear**

4 speed (paragraph B) **rate**

5 in danger (paragraph C) **at risk**

6 depend on (paragraph C) **rely on**

7 transmitting (paragraph D) **passing on**

8 eliminated (paragraph D) **wiped out**